

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 and 20 are currently pending in this application. Applicants amended Claims 1 and 20 and canceled Claims 10-19.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-9 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Davis et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,282,522, hereinafter Davis).

Support for the amendments to Claims 1 and 20 are found in the Specification on page 53, lines 21 to 32, for example, and therefore, the amendments to Claims 1 and 20 are not believed to raise an issue of new matter.

Claim 1 is directed toward a transaction management device that is connected through a network with a plurality of shop computers that provide electronic shops on the network and a plurality of client computers used by users that utilize electronic shops. The transaction management device includes a management unit configured to manage transaction information for each transaction currently in progress between one electronic shop among the plurality of electronic shops and one user among the plurality of users. The transaction information contains a set of first information for identifying each transaction, second information for identifying the user, third information for identifying the one electronic shop, and fourth information for indicating a state of each transaction as one of a plurality of possible states. The plurality of possible states include a first state in which a command from the one user for finalizing completion or failure of the transaction is waited, a second state in which a command from the one user for finalizing completion of transaction is received and a processing for finalizing completion of the transaction is received and a processing for finalizing completion of the transaction is started but not finished, a third state in which the processing for finalizing completion of transaction is finished, and a fourth state in which

failure of the transaction is already finalized. There is also a processing unit configured to process each transaction according to the transaction information managed by the management unit.

This configuration enables a collective commitment for a plurality of purchases made at a plurality of different electronic shops.

In a non-limiting embodiment the transaction information contains state information for indicating a state of each transaction as one of a plurality of possible states. As an example of the state of each transaction, there are “COMMITTED,” “ABORTED,” and “ACTIVE.” “COMMITTED” indicates a state in which the transaction is completed.¹ “ABORTED” indicates a state in which the transaction is put into a shopping cart and then is later canceled.² “ACTIVE” indicates a state in which the transaction is currently in progress and its completion is not finalized.³

In the non-limiting embodiment the user makes reservations at a plurality of different electronic stores and a transaction management computer holds the reservation information for a first electronic store (e.g., a transaction is held in the shopping cart). At this time, “ACTIVE” is temporarily recorded as the state of the transaction. The user then can make a reservation at a second, different electronic store. If the users demands regarding a plurality of reservations are met, the user can presses a “collectively commit” button displayed at the web browser. This will change the state from “ACTIVE” to “COMMITTED.” If the users demands are not met, the user can press a “collectively abort” button displayed at the web browser. This will change the state from “ACTIVE” to “ABORTED.”⁴

Addressing now the prior art rejection, the rejection is traversed by the present response.

¹ Specification, page 28, lines 30-32.

² Specification, page 28, lines 33-34.

³ Specification, page 28 line 35 to page 29 line 3.

⁴ Specification, page 23 line 19 to page 48 line 28, and Figs. 3-30.

Davis is directed toward an internet payment system that uses a smart card to facilitate the purchase of goods or services over the internet. The internet payment system provides an electronic commerce system offering consumers an online equivalent to purchases with cash or coins.⁵ Davis implies that the internet payment system using a smart card enables a collective commitment for a plurality of purchases made at one electronic shop. This is shown in Fig. 4 of Davis by a single merchant server 208. Davis does not have a management unit configured to manage transaction information, wherein the transaction information contains the state information to achieve the global shopping cart function.

Amended Claim 1 recites "...a first state in which a command from said one user for finalizing completion or failure of transaction is waited..." Indeed, Davis does not have transaction information containing a first state as recited in amended Claim 1.

On the contrary, Davis discloses that card 5 sends a success message to the client module 224 in client terminal 204.⁶ This message indicates that the purchase amount has been deducted from the balance on the stored-value card.⁷ The payment server creates a log and updates the transaction status in its database.⁸ Davis is directed toward transmitting post-purchase transaction information to a client terminal and payment server for the purpose of security and verification.⁹ The first state recited in Claim 1 is directed toward the state of "completion or failure of transaction is waited." This corresponds to the "ACTIVE" state in the non-limiting embodiment described earlier.¹⁰

Furthermore, the state of the transaction information in Davis all occurs after the purchase has been finalized.¹¹ The amendment to Claim 1 recites "the transaction information containing...a first state in which a command from said one user for finalizing

⁵ Davis, col. 6, lines 23-26.

⁶ Davis, col. 17, lines 34-36.

⁷ Davis, col. 17, lines 37-39.

⁸ Davis, col. 17, lines 45-47.

⁹ Davis, Fig. 11b.

¹⁰ Specification, page 27 line 34 to page 28 line 3.

¹¹ Davis, Fig. 10.

completion or failure of the transaction is waited" occurs before the purchase is completed. The addition of "said one user" clarifies that a command from said one user is still being waited for before the purchase is finalized. Davis does not disclose waiting for a command, in addition to the purchase command, from a user. Davis does not disclose transaction information containing any state before the purchase is completed because there are no other commands from the user before step 602 (making the purchase).¹² Steps 620-624 in Davis, which the Office Action states disclose "status information,"¹³ all occur after the user has made the purchase.

In view of the above noted distinctions, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 1 (and its dependent Claims 2-9) patentably distinguish over Davis. Amended Claim 20 is similar to amended Claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 20 patentably distinguishes over Davis for at least the reasons given for amended Claim 1.


Consequently, in view of the above amendments and comments, it is respectfully submitted that the outstanding rejection is traversed and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

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¹² Davis, Fig. 11A.

¹³ Office Action of July 14, 2004, page 3.